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TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

- for -

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TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Administration of the District for the year ending December 31st 1936.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA.

Area (in acres).	-	-	31,250
Population, Registrar-General's estimate for Mid-year.			5,310
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate-book.			1,540
Rateable value.	-	-	£19,624
Sum represented by a penny rate.	-	-	£76

SOCIAL CONDITIONS. The District comprises seventeen parishes and is rural in character, except for the market Town of Tenbury. Agriculture, including fruit and hop growing, is the chief industry and provides work for the greater portion of the adult male population. Three of the parishes added to the district in 1933 are on the coal measures, where a number of pits are at work and provide employment for a considerable number of men,

EXTRACTS from VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Live Births (Legitimate	75	42	33	) <u>Birth Rate per 1000</u> of the estimated resident population. <u>15.25</u>
(Illegitimate	6	2	4	
	<u>81</u>			

Still births 1. Rate per 1000 total (live & still) births. 12.

Deaths 88. Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population. 16.5.

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total</u> <u>(live and still)</u> <u>births.</u>
Puerperal Sepsis.	1	12
Other puerperal causes.	0	Nil.
Total.	<u>1</u>	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1000 live births. - 49

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births. 40

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births. 166.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).	-	6
" " Measles (all ages)	-	0
" " Whooping cough (all ages)	-	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		0

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at the Mid-year was 5310 which is 86 less than the previous year.

THE BIRTH-RATE (15.25) is below the rate of last year 15.5 and also below the previous ten years average. The Rate for England and Wales for 1936 was 14.8.

THE DEATH-RATE (16.5) is below the rate of the previous year, but the deaths again exceeded the births by seven.

Using the factor supplied by the Registrar General in order to make it comparable from a mortality point of view, with the crude death-rate of the country as a whole or with the mortality of any other local area, the crude death-rate of which has been similarly modified with its own factor for the purpose, the resulting adjusted death-rate is 12.8, as compared with 13.1 for England and Wales for the year 1936.

The causes of death were:- Respiratory Tuberculosis 1; Cancer 6; Diabetes 1; Cerebral haemorrhage 12; Heart Disease 22; Other Circulatory Diseases 7; Bronchitis 4; Peptic Ulcer 1; Cirrhosis of the Liver 1; Digestive Diseases 2; Nephritis 2; Puerperal Sepsis 1; Premature Birth 3; Senility 9; Suicide 1; Other Violence 5; Other defined diseases 10 $\frac{1}{2}$

Fifty-six out of a total of eighty-eight deaths were of persons over seventy years of age, of which twenty-eight were over eighty years and two over ninety.

The death-rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis for the year was .18 per 1000 of the population and for Cancer 1.11; both these rates are a great improvement on last year, for the area, and are well below the rates for the Country as a whole.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (49) This shows considerable improvement from the previous year. It is based on four deaths due to Bronchitis, Premature Birth, Marasmus and Injury at birth. The average of the previous five years was 54 and the rate for England and Wales for 1936 was 59.

	<u>Tenbury R.D.</u>	<u>Tenbury R.D.</u> <u>Average of</u> <u>5 years</u> <u>1931 - 35</u>	<u>England &</u> <u>Wales</u> <u>1935</u>
	<u>1936</u>		
Birth-rate.	15.25	15.4	14.8
Death-rate crude	16.5	14.5	12.1
corrected	12.8		
Infantile Mortality) Rate.	49	54	59

GENERAL PROVISION of HEALTH SERVICES for the AREA.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Mr. J. E. Parkinson has been Sanitary Inspector since May 1932. He holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and in addition to his ordinary duties is Superintendent of scavenging, Meat Inspector and Water Engineer. A contribution is made to his salary and that of the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health Acts.

2. Laboratory facilities. The County Council Laboratory at Worcester undertakes bacteriological and chemical examinations of pathological specimens and water samples.

Ambulance facilities. Tenbury Hospital provides an ambulance for the removal of accidents and other cases.

Nursing in the Home. There are District Nurses working in the parishes of Lindridge, Eardiston and Tenbury.

There are no Clinics or Centres in the area.

Hospital. There is a poor-law Hospital at Tenbury, and the Burford Cottage Hospital on the border of the district is managed and supported chiefly by the town and district of Tenbury.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water. The piped supply to Tenbury was very satisfactory during the year. Four hundred and fifteen houses are now connected to it. Seventy-one samples of water were sent for analysis by the Sanitary Inspector to Worcester County Laboratory.

Contaminated or deficient water supplies were dealt with at twenty-two houses, and seven wells were sunk and three cleaned out and repaired.

The supply to the rural parts of the area is on the whole very good and although many of the wells are shallow, there is seldom any deficiency.

2. Drainage and sewerage. Drains were relaid at twenty-six houses and repairs carried out at twenty-two. Twenty-nine privies or pail closets were converted into water closets, and twenty-seven houses connected to the sewer.

The increasing amount of sewage which gets into the Teme or Kyre brook makes the consideration of a sewerage works for Tenbury Town a matter of urgency. The longer it is postponed the more expense will have to be incurred, because at present connections are made without any settled plans for the future.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Mr. Parkinson states that he inspected 258 houses during the year in connection with outbreaks of Infectious Disease or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic sanitary survey and that 38 legal and 101 informal notices were served and 56 of them complied with and the necessary improvements completed. Sixty-seven had reference to houses, which were damp, dirty, or admitting rain or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition.

SHOPS. No action was taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of the shops and to sanitary conveniences.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS. No complaints were received in regard to premises infected with bugs and no Council house is believed to be so.

SCHOOLS. The schools visited during the year were all in good sanitary condition and had a satisfactory water supply.

HOUSING

I. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:-

1	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health & Housing Acts).	-	-	258
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.			320
2.	(a) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1935.	-	-	67
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose			222
3.	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	-		2
4.	Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.			72

II. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	-	-	56
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III. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 Housing Act 1930

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	34
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	

(a) By Owners.	-	10
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners..		Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	18
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners.	- 11
(b) By the Local Authority in default of owners.	Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 & 21 Housing Act, 1930

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. | - | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. | | 1 |

(d) Proceedings under Section 20 Housing Act 1930

Nil.

IV. HOUSING ACT, 1935. OVERCROWDING.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year. | 15 |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein. | 17 |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein. | 103 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding during the year. | 22 |
| (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding received during the year. | 7 |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases. | 47 |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after abatement by Local Authority. | Nil |

The Council completed and let twenty- houses commenced in the previous year at the Crescent, Tenbury, and four were erected by private builders. Sites were also acquired in the parishes of Knighton-on-Teme, Eastham, Lindridge, Stockton and Mamble and steps taken to provide water supplies before commencing to build. Further houses will be required at Tenbury and Stoke Bliss for slum clearance.

I visited the Hop-pickers accommodation three times during the season and found many improvements had been carried at the instigation of the Inspectors. The conditions at most of them were very satisfactory. The new Model Bylaws give a clear indication of the standard that should be aimed at and would thus be of service to the Hop-growers and should I consider be adopted by the Council.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

a. Milk Supply.

There are 99 cowkeepers and milksellers on the Register with approximately 960 milking cows. One hundred and twenty-two inspections were made and fifty notices served for structural defects and insanitary conditions in the surroundings and twenty-nine have been complied with. Two producers hold licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk and six for Accredited Milk in the Area.

b. Meat and other Foods.

There are seven private slaughter-houses in the area, and they have been visited regularly; and one pig and 615 lbs. of meat were surrendered, because considered unfit by the Meat Inspector and destroyed.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
during 1936

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	13	5	0
Diphtheria	3	3	0
Enteric Fever.	2	0	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever.	1	0	1
	-----	-----	-----
	22	8	1
	-----	-----	-----

There was an outbreak of Scarlet Fever at Pensax in April in school children and two earliest cases were sent to Worcester Isolation Hospital under the agreement come to last year between the Council and the Hospital.

Of the three cases of Diphtheria, which were notified two were in Hop-pickers at different barracks, one came from Coseley and the other from Coverley, near Kidderminster. All were sent to Worcester Isolation Hospital.

The two cases of Enteric Fever were unconnected, one being in February and the other in October in different parishes. In the first case there was evidence that the water supply might have been the cause, and in the second no cause was discoverable.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1936

<u>Age Period</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
1								
5	1		2					
15	3			1				
25	1							
35								
45								
55								
65 +	1				1			
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	6	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

A wholesale producer of milk was notified with Pulmonary Tuberculosis; he was asked not to have anything to do with the milking and handling of milk and his attention drawn to the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925. He died two months later from Phthisis.

There were on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1936 nineteen Pulmonary cases (males 15, females 4) and seventeen Non-Pulmonary (males 7 females 10). This is a very considerable improvement from last years figure, when the Pulmonary cases numbered 48.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALFRED E. WHITE.

May 24th 1937.

The following is an Account Furnished by the Sanitary Inspector of Sanitary work for the Year ending 31st December, 1936, in the TILBURY RURAL Sanitary District.

a Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey.	-	258
a Please note that this number should include all houses inspected, including those under the Housing and Town Planning Act, but not houses that are visited for another purpose without an inspection of the premises.		
Number of legal notices sent.	-	38
Number of informal notices sent.	-	101
Number of such notices complied with.	-	56
Number of letters written.	-	349

PARTICULARS of SANITARY MATTERS REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE NOTICES

(a) Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease.	21
(b) Deficient or objectionable water supply.	13
(c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended.	52
(d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction.	47
(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition.	67
(f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds.	1
(g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance.	Nil
(h) Houses overcrowded.	-

Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis)	19
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis.	2
Privies converted to water closets.	2
Privies converted to earth closets.	7
Plans for new houses passed.	5
* Certificates issued for water supply to new houses.	18
Houses connected to public water supply.	16
Repairs to public pumps and wells.	Nil
New public wells.	Nil
Private wells re-constructed or improved	3
Houses connected to public sewerage.	16
Lengths of new sewers laid.	70 yds.
Lengths of new water mains laid.	140 yds.

Remarks:

* Includes 12 Council Houses.

(Signed) J. E. PARKINSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the Year 1936
for the RURAL DISTRICT of TENBURY in the County of Worcester
on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901, in
connection with FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES,
including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted.</u>
Factories (Including Factory Laundries).	6	Nil	Nil
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries).	6	Nil	Nil

Total	12		
=====			

(Signature) ALFRED E. WHITE,

Medical Officer of Health.

May 24th 1937.

1936

TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT of SANITARY INSPECTOR upon ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED FOR HOP-PICKERS in THE TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

To

Dr. A. E. White, M.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Sir,

I beg to submit my fifth Annual Report upon the accommodation provided for persons engaged in picking Hops in the Tenbury Rural district, during the 1936 Season.

On the 30th July, a Circular letter was sent to growers, and in another Circular letter of the 27th August, growers were reminded specially of the need for careful and regular attention to the closet accommodation provided for the pickers and advice was given as to the best methods of constructing and maintaining Pail-closets and Trench-Closets. Also growers were asked to make proper and definite arrangements for Scavenging and for a good general clean-up each day.

All premises where pickers were to be housed were inspected before occupation. In accordance with the requirements of bye-laws, all lodgings were limewashed or otherwise cleansed before use.

The Hop-picking Season, this year, was a very late one. In many cases, picking did not commence until the second week in September and proceeded slowly, owing - it was stated - to there being fewer pickers available this year, following upon improved trade conditions in the Midland towns from which pickers are usually drawn.

As for last year there were seventeen growers in the district, there being nineteen camps.

Three cases of notifiable diseases were reported and dealt with. Two cases of Diphtheria among pickers and one case of Typhoid Fever, the patient being a Hop-Grower's daughter. The Diphtheria cases were removed to Worcester Isolation Hospital and their vacated quarters properly cleansed and disinfected. The Sanitary Authorities for the districts from which the patients came were notified and a list of the names and addresses of the "contacts" who were sent home was supplied to the appropriate Authorities.

Dr. Allan Parsons of the Ministry of Health again visited the district and I accompanied him on tours of inspection of pickers quarters on the 4th, 5th and 7th of September.

I accompanied Sir. Kingsley Wood, Minister of Health, on his tour of inspection of hop-pickers accommodation on the 10th September.

Sir Kingsley very carefully inspected the pickers quarters at the following eight farms:- Messrs. Shew & Beaumont, Stanford; Mr. P. Jones, Stockton Court Stockton; Mr. A. R. Firkins, The Moor, Lindridge; The Eardiston Farming Co., Lindridge; Mr. C. G. Partridge, Lambswick, Lindridge; Mr. Pudge, Woodston Kilns,

Lindridge; Mr. Pudge, Eastham Bridge Barracks; Mr. Nott, Talbot Barracks, Newnham Bridge.

Accommodation for pickers, on the whole, was good, and further improvements upon last year were to be seen.

There was this year a big increase in the number of gypsy pickers at one farm, - (Pudge, Woodston Kilns) - The gypsy pickers were encamped on land just beyond Eastham Bridge on the Worcester Road. Some of these pickers possessed vans for living and sleeping. Others used the usual gypsy tents constructed of hazel sticks, sacking and tarpaulins.

I am not satisfied, that because these pickers are gypsies, that they should not be provided with proper accommodation by the grower. The byelaws for securing the decent lodging of persons engaged in the picking of Hops, Fruit and Vegetables in the Rural District of Tenbury, apply, irrespective of whether the pickers are gypsies or not. I am taking up the matter with the grower concerned with a view to him ceasing to employ gypsies who do not possess proper accommodation or if he does employ such pickers, to provide accommodation of the standard required by byelaws.

The following is a summary of improvements to Hop-pickers Lodgings in the Tenbury Rural District during 1936:-

H. M. Moore, The Boathouse, Eastham.	New opening Hopper window provided in sleeping quarters.
H. T. Nott, Kyrewood, Tenbury.	Two new brick fireplaces constructed.
W. Cooper, Woodston, Lindridge.	New Portable type closet accommodation.
T. P. Adams, Lower Rochford.	New cement floor in sleeping quarters.
G. A. Nott, Talbot Barracks.	New Screens provided between seats in closet accommodation, giving privacy. The grower here provided a powerful all electric wireless receiver for the pickers.
W. G. Moore, Stockton.	Washing accommodation provided.
Mr. Morris, Orleton Court.	Roofs reconditioned and new skylights provided giving more light in pickers quarters. New sleeping quarters provided in Granary.
H. T. Nott, Rhyse Barracks.	Board linings affixed to portions of internal walls of barracks.
C. G. Partridge, Lindridge.	Great improvement to a large sleeping room by the provision of skylights.
Messrs. Shew & Beaumont, Stanford.	Four new brick-built fireplaces erected.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
J. E. PARKINSON,
Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT (Contd.)

SANITARY WORK completed during 1936 under Housing Acts & Public Health Acts being Analysis not provided for on Printed Forms.

Pit closets converted to Pail closets or new pail closets provided.	-	-	7
Closet accommodation improved or repaired.	-	-	29
External brickwork including chimney stacks repaired.	-	-	12
Dampness remedied.	-	-	5
Eaves gutters and Rainwater pipes provided or repaired.	-	-	15
No. of drains laid or relaid.	-	-	18
" " " trapped, ventilated or repaired.	-	-	8
" " Sinks provided.	-	-	5
" " Sink wastes provided or repaired.	-	-	2
" " Foodstores provided.	-	-	6
Paving to paths or yards provided or repaired.	-	-	14
Roofs repaired or renewed.	-	-	15
Windows made to open.	-	-	13
" repaired or renewed.	-	-	7
Fire grates and ranges repaired or provided.	-	-	11
Doors repaired or provided.	-	-	9
Washing accommodation, provided, renewed or repaired.	-	-	17
Plasterwork repaired.	-	-	10
Ceilings renewed or repaired.	-	-	9
Floors relaid or repaired.	-	-	26
Additional light and ventilation provided.	-	-	7
Wells cleansed or repaired.	-	-	3
Pumps renewed or repaired.	-	-	1
New Wells sunk.	-	-	7
Houses cleansed.	-	-	23
High ground removed from house walls.	-	-	1
Dangerous structures rebuilt.	-	-	1
Staircases repaired.	-	-	2
Choked drains remedied.	-	-	14
Town water services improved or repaired.	-	-	11
Defective town water fittings remedied.	-	-	13
Dust Bins provided or renewed.	-	-	17
New connections to town water mains.	-	-	15
Alterations to Waterworks.	-	-	1
Doorways raised to provide more headway.	-	-	2
Retaining walls built or repaired.	-	-	1
New Sculleries provided.	-	-	1
Fuel Stores provided.	-	-	2
Pail Closets converted to Water closets.	-	-	2
New Water Closets provided.	-	-	2

(Signed) J. E. PARKINSON,

Sanitary Inspector.



